

WISHA REGIONAL DIRECTIVE

Department of Labor and Industries

Division of Occupational Safety and Health

7.25 Acceptable Methods of Determining “Flashpoint” of Combustible Liquids

Date Issued: August 11, 2006

I. Background

The Setaflash method, ASTM D3278-73 (Flashpoint of Liquids by Setaflash Closed Tester), has been accepted for a number of years by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as an acceptable method for determining the flashpoint of combustible liquids. This method has been accepted in both the Hazard Communication Standards issued by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA).

An ad-hoc committee of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) has been engaged in a program leading to the standardization of methods determining flashpoints acceptable world-wide. Although not provided for in WAC 296-24-33001(15), the Setaflash method of determining the flashpoint of liquids will not adversely affect the safety and health of either employees conducting the tests or the users of the liquids classified by this method of testing.

II. Scope and Application

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD) provides guidance to regional consultation and compliance staff when they must evaluate employer compliance with WAC 296-24-33001(15), which provides the acceptable methods for testing various types of combustible liquids for respective flashpoints. This WRD incorporates the substance of WRD 7.25, issued on December 30, 1996, which is hereby rescinded and is based on OSHA Program Directive No. 100-65.

III. **Interpretive Guidance**

Can Setaflash Testing Methods be used for determining the flashpoint of combustible liquids?

DOSH Compliance and Consultation staff must treat the use of Setaflash Testing Methods as *de minimis* violations of WAC 296-24-33001(15). Such violations must not be cited.

Approved: _____
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